

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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EO 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA ON CHINA TRIP

1. SUMMARY. AFTER ANNOUNCING HIS PLANS TO VISIT THE US APRIL 7 - 16 (SEPTTEL) FONMIN MWAANGA GAVE AMBASSADOR FACINATING HALF-HOUR REVIEW ON HIGHLIGHTS AND GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO CHINA WHEN HE ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON STATE VISIT FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 2. MWAANGA SPOKE OF CERTAIN IRRITANTS IN CHINA-US RELATIONS WHICH AROSE IN CONVERSATION WITH CHOU EN-LAI AND OFFERED TO BRIEF US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

2. MWAANGA SAID THERE WAS VAST DIFFERENCE AND IMPROVEMENT ON CHINESE DOMESTIC SCENE FROM THAT PREVAILING IN 1967 AT HEIGHT OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION. SAID CHINA COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ENDURE ANOTHER SUCH TRAUMA. COUNTRY IS NOW ADMINISTRATIVELY FAR BETTER ORGANIZED AND MUCH MORE ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. ALL DOORS WERE OPENED TO THE ZAMBIANS AND MANY NEW ASPECTS OF LIFE SEEN. ZAMBIANS SENSED GREATER OPENNESS AND CONFIDENCE AS A RESULT OF SEVEN
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YEARS OF INCREASINGLY CLOSER GRZ RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINESE.

3. CONVERSATIONS WITH CHOU EN-LAI WHICH PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD IN COMPANY OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA AND ADVISOR MARK CHONA SHOWED PREMIER TO BE MAN VERY MUCH IN CHARGE AND ON TOP OF GOVERNMENT. MWAANGA DESCRIBED PREMIER AS SCHOLAR, ADMINISTRATOR AND THINKER. CALLED ATTENTION TO STATE BANQUET IN WHICH CHOU EN-LAI FOR FIRST TIME PUBLICLY CRITICIZED CONFUCIUS AND LIN PIAO. AGREED THAT SUCCESSION WAS PROBABLY AN ELEMENT IN CURRENT ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN AND RECALLED CHOU EN-LAI SAYING "EVERY LEADER MUST KNOW HOW TO ACCEPT POSITIONS OF LESSER CAPACITY." MWAANGA INTERPRETED THIS AS APPLICABLE NOT ONLY TO PREMIER HIMSELF BUT TO OTHER MEMBERS OF BUREAUCRACY AS WELL.

4. I ASKED FONMIN HOW HE SAW BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE IN CLOSER GRZ-PRC BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID ZAMBIA NATURALLY BENEFITS ECONOMICALLY FROM SUBSTANTIAL, NO-INTEREST CHINESE LOANS FOR BIG PROJECTS (RAILROAD, ROADS, TRANSMITTER, AND AGRICULTURE). MWAANGA CONFIRMED 50 MILLION DOLLAR INTEREST-FREE DEVELOPMENT LOAN AT DISCRETION OF GRZ WITH TEN YEAR GRACE PERIOD, RENEGOTIABLE AFTER TWENTY YEARS. PRC BENEFITS THROUGH OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT MANY OF ITS ADMITTED MISTAKES OF EARLIER DAYS WHICH LED TO ITS EXPULSION FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. NOW CHINESE EFFORT WAS DEDICATED TO DEMONSTRATING ITS INTEREST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PRC PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY AND RESULTS. TANZAM RAILROAD WAS MAJOR PRC SHOW-PIECE FOR ENTIRE WORLD. I ASKED IF PRE-EMPTING OPPORTUNITIES FROM RUSSIANS WAS NOT ANOTHER PRC BENEFIT. LESS SURE THAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA HAD BEEN ON THIS POINT IN CONVERSATION WITH ME MARCH 18, MWAANGA COMMENTED THAT CHINESE WERE NOT COMPETING WITH RUSSIA ALONE BUT WITH ALL OTHER BIG POWERS AS WELL, INCLUDING US.

5. I ASKED IF SUBJECT OF US-CHINESE RELATIONS HAD ARISEN DURING VISIT. MWAANGA SAID IT HAD ALONG WITH "EVERYTHING ELSE UNDER THE SUN" DURING 16 HOURS OF CONVERSATIONS
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WITH CHOU EN-LAI. MWAANGA SAID CHOU EN-LAI TOLD ZAMBIANS HE WAS PLEASED WITH VISITS OF DR. KISSINGER TO CHINA BUT HE DOUBTED THAT REAL PROGRESS IN RELATIONS WITH US COULD BE MADE "AS LONG AS US GIVING BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS TO TAIWAN."

6. CHOU EN-LAI ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT US RECONNAISSANCE PLANES WHICH FLEW MISSIONS TO CHECK ON CHINESE ACTIVITIES FTWLOWING PARACEL ISLANDS INCIDENT WAS DISPLEASING TO CHINESE. I ASKED MWAANGA IF HE HAD

HEARD ANY COMMENT ON THREE MONTH LONG ABSENCE FROM THE
US OF CHINESE AMBASSADOR. MWAANGA SAID CHINESE HAVE
MANY WAYS OF SHOWING THEIR DISPLEASURE OVER THINGS. ONE
OF THEM IS THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC
REPRESENTATIVES FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

7. MWAANGA OPENED AND CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS ON
CHINA WITH SINCERE OFFER TO MEET WITH US EXPERTS ON
CHINESE AFFAIRS DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT EITHER APRIL 12
OR APRIL 15 AND TO BRIEF THEM ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S TRIP.
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